

response, the Japanese foreign ministry said that it was not in a position to independently obtain a copy of the USS Ticonderoga's deck log (although a copy of the log had been already been presented to it). Instead, it reiterated that because the U.S. did not request advance consultation at the time, Japan had no reason to suspect that nuclear weapons were onboard the ship when it arrived in Yokosuka after the accident.¹⁹⁷

The Japanese government had proven its loyalty to its nuclear ally and sacrificed the integrity of its non-nuclear policy by choosing to ignore clear and indisputable evidence that nuclear weapons were brought into Japan. The United States, in turn, continued to maintain the secrecy in public. But the Ticonderoga story and the increasingly clearer documentation that U.S. nuclear-capable ships routinely ignored Japan's policy on nuclear transit affected the way the U.S. could respond to such stories in the future. In connection with a meeting with Japanese Deputy Minister Kuriyama on nuclear transits, the U.S. State Department acknowledged that the incident had "increased pressure on our pattern of response to such allegations."¹⁹⁸ Perhaps there was a limit after all to how far the collusion could be stretched.

[Go to next section](#)

- 152. William Chapman, "Ex-Envoy Says Japan Docked Nuclear Ships; Suzuki Rocked Anew," *Washington Post*, May 19, 1981, p. A1; William Chapman, "Japan Insists It Barred U.S. Ships With A-Arms," *Washington Post*, May 20, 1991, p. A18.

Ambassador Reischauer also emphasized that the verbal agreement between the United States and Japan did not permit U.S. warships to offload nuclear weapons in

- Japan. "Reischauer Emphasizes Point," *New York Times*, May 20, 1981, p. A12.
[Back](#)

153 "Former U.S. Envoy Cites Verbal Defense Agreement," *Kyodo* (Tokyo), May 18, 1981; as cited in U.S. Foreign Broadcast Information Service, Section IV, Japan, May 18, 1981, p. C-13. [Back](#)

- 154 Richard Halloran, "Nuclear Agreement On Japan Reported," *New York Times*, May 19, 1981, p. A5. [Back](#)

155 *Ibid.* [Back](#)

156 "Foreign Ministry's Denial," *Kyodo* (Tokyo), May 18, 1981; as cited in U.S. Foreign Broadcast Information Service, Section IV, Japan, May 18, 1981, pp. C-13-C14.

Nobusuke Kishi, who was Japanese Prime Minister from 1957 to 1960, stated shortly after the Reischauer scandal broke that he believed that U.S. nuclear-armed warships had called at Japanese ports and passed through Japanese territorial waters. S. Chang, "Japan Leaders Stung by Report From Reischauer," *Washington Star*, May 20, 1981, p. A11. [Back](#)

- 157 Urban C. Lehner, "Japanese Premier Reels From Uproar Touched Off by U.S. Ties, Nuclear Arms," *Wall Street Journal*, May 21, 1981, p. 30. [Back](#)

158 Henry Scott Stokes, "Japan's Nuclear Furor: Treasured Illusion Is Sullied," *The*

— *New York Times*, June 6, 1981. Back

— 159 Henry Scott Stokes, "Tokyo Tries to Divert Nuclear-Arms Uproar," *Washington Post*, May 20, 1991, p. A12. Back

— 160 Urban C. Lehner, "Japanese Premier Reels From Uproar Touched Off by U.S. Ties, Nuclear Arms," *Wall Street Journal*, May 21, 1981, p. 30. Back

161 "Government Maintains Nuclear Arms Interpretation," *Kyodo* (Tokyo), May 19, 1981; as cited in U.S. Foreign Broadcast Information Service, Section IV, Japan, May 19, 1981, p. C-1.

Even so, one immediate result of Ambassador Reischauer's statement was that the city of Kitakyushu canceled a scheduled port visit by the three ASROC-equipped U.S. Navy destroyers USS Waddell, USS Hull, USS Decatur. City officials told the *Kyodo* that in the present situation a visit by the U.S. warships could cause problems. "Kitakyushu Prohibits Port Call By U.S. Ships," *Kyodo* (Tokyo), May 19, 1981; as cited in U.S. Foreign Broadcast Information Service, Section IV, Japan, May 19, 1981, p. C-1. Back

— 162 Morton Mintz, "U.S. Stationed A-Bomb Ship 200 Yards Off Japan's Coast," *Washington Post*, May 22, 1981, p. A1. Back

163 *Ibid.* Back

— 164 "Reischauer Filed Protest Over Nuclear-Armed LST," *The Daily Yomiuri* (Kyodo dispatch), June 5, 1981, p. 1. Back

— 165 Richard Halloran, "Ex-Envoy Says He Protested Atom Bombs off Japan," *New York Times*, May 23, 1981, p. A3. Back

— 166 Morton Mintz, "U.S. Stationed A-Bomb Ship 200 Yards Off Japan's Coast," *Washington Post*, May 22, 1981, p. A1. Back

— 167 Rudy Maxa, "A-Ship Apparently in Japan in Mid-1960s," *Washington Post*, June 3, 1981, p. A1. Back

168 *Ibid.* Back

169 "LST 1122 History," The LST 1122 Home Page, presented by Walter Martin (EM), n.d., downloaded July 15, 1999. Back

— 170 William Chapman, "Japan Backing Away From Trusting U.S. On Nuclear Accords," *Washington Post*, May 24, 1981, p. A34. Back

— 171 Morton Mintz, "U.S. Stationed A-Bomb Ship 200 Yards Off Japan's Coast," *Washington Post*, May 22, 1981, p. A1. Back

— 172 "Mansfield Assures Japan on N-Weapons," *Washington Star*, May 21, 1981, p. 20. Back

173 Henry Scott Stokes, "Japan's Mood: Wary of U.S.," *New York Times*, May 21, 1981, p. 6. Back